

INTELLOFAX 25

COUNTRY USSR (Crimean ASSR)

SUBJECT Yevpatoriya Airfields

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DATE OF
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40/10/1952

1. There was an airfield of about 2.5 x 5 km situated near Yevpatoriya (45°12'N/33°24'E), Crimean A.S.S.R. A single track railroad line ending at the Yamaika settlement passed along the northern edge of the field at a distance of about 500 meters. There is a village about 2 km north of the railroad line. The terrain between the railroad line and the village is not level and is covered only by patches of grass. It rises gradually from east to west, as does the airfield itself. The subsoil consists of a sandstone strata up to four meters deep which is covered by a layer of hard black earth 10 to 20 cm thick. Hard-surfaced runways or taxiways were not seen.
2. Buildings seen at the field included about 11 wooden hangars, each 40 x 25 meters; a two-story brick structure built in the form of a right angle; two four-story quartering buildings; a three-story brick building covered with red-tiles; and two two-story brick buildings. A fuel dump with some large containers was in an area of 250 x 100 meters.
3. Except for its eastern side, the field was protected on all sides by barrage balloons attached to wooden frames. The balloons, which were about 3 meters long and 1 meter in diameter, had 2 stabilizing fins at the rear and looked like blimps. Each balloon, secured by about 10 wire cables about 4 mm thick, had a crew of 4 air force soldiers assigned to it. Occasionally the balloons were at an altitude of 2,000 meters. There were AA gun emplacements, but gun details were not noted.
4. The field was occupied by about 50 biplanes which made practice take-offs and landings, and 25 twin-engine aircraft, which were never seen in the air. The maximum number of biplanes seen in the air at the same time was seven. In October 1949 a swept-back jet fighter was seen taking off from the field.
5. Three to four times every week AA units equipped with guns of various calibers practiced firing at air sleeves towed by biplanes at an altitude of about 500 meters. The tow ropes were about 500 meters long and made of aluminum, as was determined when one such rope was found on the ground.
6. It was ascertained on two truck rides that there was a second airfield about 2 km west of Yevpatoriya. A stone tower about 25 meters high, with a white light on top, another tower 15 meters high with a red light, and about 20 hangars with vaulted roofs were seen at this field.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

7. The field was occupied by a large number of single-engine low-wing monoplanes with in-line engines and landing gear retracting rearward. Two bombs were suspended from each wing. The planes practiced dive bombing. They took off individually in rapid succession and, after assembling, approached the target area in a single formation flying at an altitude from 300 to 400 meters. The planes dived individually to a point about 50 meters above ground. Immediately after pulling out two or three rounds were fired at the target from the aircraft cannon. They then circled and attacked the target again in low-level flight. The bomb range was on a lake just north of the Yevpatoriya-Saki railroad line. According to other PWs, ship dummies were there.

Attachment: Sketch of Yevpatoriya airfield.

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